

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 5732-38STEAM	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/US2004/014906	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 12 May 2004 (12.05.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 27 August 2003 (27.08.2003)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant STEAMWAY FRANCHISE SALES, INC.		

1.	This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).																								
2.	<p>This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.</p>																								
3.	<p>This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 30%;">Box No. I</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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4.	The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).																								

<p style="text-align: center;">The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35</p>	<p>Date of issuance of this report 27 February 2006 (27.02.2006)</p> <p>Authorized officer Beate Giffo-Schmitt</p> <p>Telephone No. +41 22 338 87 20</p>
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the

INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

REC'D 22 NOV 2004

WIPO

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

19 NOV 2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference

5732-38STEAM

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/US04/14906

International filing date (day/month/year)

12 May 2004 (12.05.2004)

Priority date (day/month/year)

27 August 2003 (27.08.2003)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

IPC(7): H05B 6/80; B65D 81/34; A47J 27/08 and US Cl.: 219/732, 735, 762; 426/118, 234; 99/Dig.14; 220/367.1

Applicant

STEAMWAY FRANCHISE SALES, INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US

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Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (January 2004)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/US04/14906

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

☐ a sequence listing

☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

☐ in written format

☐ in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

☐ contained in international application as filed.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US04/14906

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>2-16</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-16</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-16</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claim 1 lacks novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Toppan Printing Co Ltd (JP 11-208737). Toppan Printing Co Ltd ('737) shows a microwave package with a venting hole 3 and sealed with a covering piece 4 forming a venting assembly with bonding parts 6 and 7 (see Figures 1-3 and the English abstract).

Claim 1 further lacks novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Toppan Printing Co Ltd (JP 11-245971). Toppan Printing Co Ltd ('971) shows a microwave package with a venting hole 52 and sealed with a covering piece 1 forming a venting assembly with a seal portion 53 (see Figures 1-3 and the English abstract).

Claims 6-16 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Toppan Printing Co Ltd (JP 11-208737) or Toppan Printing Co Ltd (JP 11-245971). Either Toppan Printing Co Ltd ('737) or Toppan Printing Co Ltd ('971) shows a microwave package with a vent assembly having a seal patch and venting elements to control the venting similar to the claimed disk. The exact structure of the disk would have been a matter of engineering variations of the ones shown in the references and obvious to an ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 2-7 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Toppan Printing Co Ltd (JP 11-208737) or Toppan Printing Co Ltd (JP 11-245971), in view of Stenkamp et al or Pickford (US 6,097,017). Either Toppan Printing Co Ltd ('737) or Toppan Printing Co Ltd ('971) shows a microwave package having every feature and structure as claimed except for the use of an insert. Either Stenkamp et al or Pickford shows that it is well known in the art of a microwave oven to provide an insert in the microwave food cooking package to support the food being microwaved (see Stenkamp et al, Figures 5-7 and col. 7, line 36 - col. 8, line 24 and Pickford, Figures 1-9 and col. 3, line 48 - col. 4, line 16). It would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Toppan Printing Co Ltd ('737) or Toppan Printing Co Ltd ('971) to use an insert for supporting the food to be microwave heated for better cooking result, in view of the teaching of Stenkamp or Pickford.

Claims 2-16 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2), because no single reference shows all the structure as claimed.

Claims 1-16 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.